

Lesson No. 03 Ruling the Countryside

Q1: Describe the main features of the Permanent settlement.

Ans: In order to get stable revenue income the company introduced the permanent settlement in 1793. The aim of this settlement was to ensure the regular flow of revenue for the company. According to the terms of settlement, rajas and taluqdars were recognized as zamindars. They were asked to collect rent from the peasants and pay revenue to the company. The amount to be paid was fixed permanently i.e it was not to be increased ever in the future. If the zamindars failed to pay the revenue, they lost their zamindari.

Q2: Give two problems which arose with the new Munro System of fixing revenue.

Ans: Under the new Munro system of fixing revenue, the revenue officials fixed very high revenue demand. This demand could not be met by the peasants. Consequently, the peasants fled the countryside and the villages became deserted in many regions.

Q3: Why were ryots reluctant to grow indigo?

Ans: Under the ryoti system, the Indigo planters forced the ryots to sign an agreement or contract. Those who signed the contract got cash advances to low rates of interest to produce Indigo. The loan committed the ryots to cultivate Indigo on at least 25% of the area under his holding. On delivering the crop to the planter, the ryot was given a new loan and the cycle started again. The price that they got from the planters for the Indigo was very low. Besides, the planters insisted the peasants to cultivate Indigo on the most fertile parts of their holding but peasants preferred growing rice on their best soils. The reason for not growing Indigo was the deep roots exhausted the soil rapidly. So, after an Indigo harvest, the land could not be used for sowing rice. Therefore, due to these factors, the ryots were reluctant to grow Indigo.

Q4: What were the circumstances which led to the eventual collapse of Indigo production in Bengal?

Ans: The Indigo ryots of Bengal felt that they had the support of local Zamindars and Village Headmen in their struggle against the forceful and oppressive methods of the Indigo planters. These Zamindars were unhappy with the increasing power of the planters to give them land on long leases. Moreover, in many villages, the village headmen mobilized the Indigo peasants and fought fierce battles with the lathiyals. Many intellectuals supported the ryots by writing about their misery, the tyranny of planters and horrors of the system. In march 1859, thousands of ryots refused to grow Indigo. Worried by the rebellion, the government setup the Indigo

commission to inquire into the system of Indigo production. The commission held the planters guilty. It declared that Indigo cultivation was not profitable for the ryots and that after fulfilling their existing contracts, they could refuse to produce Indigo in future. Consequently, the Indigo production collapsed in Bengal.

Q5: How was the Mahalwari system different from the permanent settlement?

Ans:

Mahalwari System	Permanent settlement
It was devised by Holt Mackenzie. It came into effect in 1822. In the North Western provinces of the Bengal Presidency.	It was introduced in 1793 by Lord Cornwallis.
The Village headmen were incharge of collecting revenue.	The Rajas and Taluqdars were incharge of collecting revenue.
The revenue amount wasn't fixed and was to be revised periodically.	The revenue amount was fixed and was never to be increased in the future.

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From Trade to Territory
Lesson No. 02

Definitions

1. Charter:- A document issued by a sovereign or other authority to create a public or private corporation. City or town, company or an institution.
2. Acquit: To declare free of blame or guilt.
3. Fleishy: Shoury and tasteless.
4. Flaunted: To display boldly.
5. Triumph: A very great success or achievement.
6. Mauling: When an animal attacks someone and injures him with its teeth.
7. Shrieked: A short, loud, high cry.

Textual Questions

Q1: What attracted European trading companies to India?

Ans: The following were the reasons due to which trading companies came to India:

1. Trading with India was highly profitable and fruitful to business men in the Europe because they purchased goods at cheaper rates in India and sold them in Europe at higher prices.
2. The fine qualities of cotton and silk produced in India had a big market in Europe.
3. Indian spices like pepper, cloves, cardamom, cinnamon, were in great demand in Europe.

Q2: What were the areas of conflict between the Bengal nawabs and east India company?

Ans: In the 18th century, after the death of Aurangzeb the Bengal nawabs asserted their power and autonomy. These nawabs refused to grant the company further concessions rather demanded large tributes from the company to trade. These nawabs also denied giving them any right to mint coins and stop them from extending their fortification.

They misused dastak. Company officials used dastak for their private trade. The company on the other hand was refusing to pay the taxes. Then company officials used to humiliate the nawabs and his officials by writing disrespectful letters to them. The company also declared that the unjust demands of the local officials were ruining the trade, which could flourish only if the duties were removed. The conflicts led to the confrontations and culminated in the Battle of Plassey.

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Q3: How did the assumption of Diwani benefit the East India company?

Ans: The Diwani allowed the company to use the vast revenue resources of Bengal. Earlier the company had to buy most of the goods in India in exchange of gold and silver which they imported from Britain. After the assumption of Diwani, the company started to buy things in India with these revenues, as a result of which the outflow of gold and silver from Britain entirely stopped.

Now the Britishers could use these revenues in India to purchase cotton and silver textiles and also to meet the cost of building the company forts and offices at Calcutta.

Q4: Explain the system of “Subsidiary Alliance”.

Ans: In order to expand British rule in India the company had devised several plans, one among them was subsidiary Alliance. According to the terms of this alliance, Indian rulers were not allowed to have their independent armed forces. They were to be protected by the company, but had to pay for the “subsidiary forces” that the company was supposed to maintain for the purpose of their protection. If the rulers failed to make the payment, then the part of their territory was taken away as penalty.

Q5: In what way was the administration of the company different from that of the Indian rulers?

Ans: The British territories in India were broadly divided into administrative units called as presidencies. There were three presidencies – Bengal, Madras and Bombay where as under the Indians rulers, the administration was divided into four parts – district, Pargana, Tehsil & Villages. In each presidency a britisher was governor general whereas under the Indian administrative system the supreme head was the king or nawab.

Warren Hastings introduced the system of justice. Each district was to have two courts – civil court and criminal court. The European District collector presided over the civil court and the criminal court was still under a Qazi or a Mufti. Under the Regulation Act of 1773 a new supreme court was established.

Q6: Describe the changes that occurred in the compositions of the company’s army.

Ans: The colonial rule in India brought some new ideas of the administration and reform. It also introduced many changes in its army. Initially, the East India Company also adopted the same old methods of warfare as that of

Mughals but the change in the warfare technology, infantry requirements became more important than the cavalry requirements. In the early 19th century, the Britishers began to introduce a uniform military culture to European style of training and discipline that regulated their life far more than before. But the Indian soldiers were not given the salary and treated like servants to company.

TOPIC 2: UNDERSTANDING SECULARISM

Q1. List the different types of religious practice that you find in your neighborhood. This could be different forms of prayer, worship of different gods, sacred sites, different kinds of religious music and singing etc. Does this indicate freedom of religious practice?

Answer: The different types of religious practices that we can see in our neighborhood are as follows:

1. A Sikh person worships in Gurduwara to Guru Nanak using Guru Granth Sahib
2. A Muslim worships in a mosque and their sacred book is the Quran.
3. A Christian worships Jesus Christ in a Church and their religious book is the Holy Bible.
4. A Hindu worships in a Temple to the idols of Gods and Goddess.

This shows that the people in India have the freedom to practice the religion of their choice and yet live together in peace and harmony.

Q2. Will the government intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practice infanticide? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer: Yes, the Government can intervene if some religious group says that their religion allows them to practice infanticide. This is because the Indian Constitution clearly states that the Government has the right to intervene if there is a threat to social harmony. Also, killing an infant is a crime and the judiciary is the only authority that can punish a person to death and no other religion or person can commit the crime of killing someone.

Q3. Complete the following table:

Objective	Why is this important	Example of violation of this objective
One religious community does not dominate another	To protect the freedom of religion which is a fundamental right.	The killing of cattle traders in Rajasthan suspecting that they were carrying beef.
The state does not enforce any particular Religion nor take away the religious freedom of individuals.	To maintain separation of religion from sectoral state	In 2004, people were banned from wearing head scarves or turbans in public places by the French government.
That some members do not dominate other members of same religious community.	Freedom of religion based on the principle of equality	Islam is divided into sunni and shia sects. In many Islamic countries shias are oppressed by sunni people.

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Q4. Look up the annual calendar of holidays of your school. How many of them pertain to different religions? What does this indicate?

Answer: The annual calendar of our school marks holidays like Eid, which is celebrated by Muslims. Diwali, which is a Hindu festival, Christmas, which is celebrated by Christians and Guru Nanak Jayanti which is a Sikh festival. This proves that India is a secular country and every individual has the right to religious freedom.

Q5. Find out some examples of different views within the same religion.

Answer: Some examples of different views within the same religion are as follows:

1. Hindus worship different idols of Gods and Goddesses.
2. Muslims are divided into Shia and Sunni. Both these sects have different views on a lot of issues.
3. Buddhist followers are divided into Mahayan and Hinyan

Q6. The Indian State both keeps away from religion as well as intervenes in religion. This idea can be quite confusing. Discuss this once again in class using examples from the chapter as well as those that you might have come up with.

Answer: The Indian state both keeps away from religion, as well as intervenes in religion because on one side Indian laws say that the issues of religious importance have to be dealt as per the laws of that particular religion but at the same time the religious laws and issues like Triple Talaq were recently modified or abolished by Indian judiciary violating the Muslim sharia law.

Topic 3: why do we need a parliament

Q1: Why do u think the nationalist movement supported the idea that all adults have a right to vote?

Ans: The nationalist movement supported the idea that all adults have a right to vote because everyone in the country is a part of society and should have a chance to contribute towards the working of the country or the government. It would allow people to create and rectify their governments in the way in which they want the country to run. Law making and decision making should be shared by all the people of the country.